



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

16 January 1986

NBPM

Dear Douglas

at Map

POPPELWELL INQUIRY IN SAFETY AND CONTROL AT SPORTS GROUNDS

You wrote to me on 19 December with a copy of the final report of the Inquiry into Safety and Control at Sports Grounds. Your letter sought the agreement of H Committee to your proposals for its handling.

First, as far as your recommendations in relation to safety and crowd control are concerned, you will have seen the letters from Quintin Hailsham of 23 December, from Kenneth Baker of 7 January, from Nick Edwards of 8 January and from Kenneth Clarke of 8 January all agreeing with your proposals. You will also have seen George Younger's letter of 7 January accepting your proposals but indicating that he would intend to make some modifications as far as application in Scotland is concerned and also making some points on presentation. John MacGregor in his letter of 7 January states that he too is content provided you are able to meet his conditions on the public expenditure implications. Finally, I understand that although the Prime Minister initially had some reservations as to whether the proposed response had the right balance she has been reassured by the draft of the statement your Private Secretary circulated with his letter to Mr Addison of 14 January and is now content for you to proceed as you proposed. You may therefore take it you have H Committee agreement to proceed as you intend in these areas provided you can accept George Younger's and John MacGregor's points.

The other issue you raised is the question of removal of the restrictions on the sale of alcohol in executive boxes. The report recommends the removal of such restrictions, you wish to accept this and you have strong backing from Kenneth Clarke. But Kenneth Baker has raised a particular point over the timing. I understand that in the light of the views expressed to you by him and by the Prime Minister on this point you are prepared to agree that it might be too early and convey the wrong impression to give any concession in relation to alcohol in executive

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP

HONG KONG AFFAIRS P+S
Football Hongkongers

boxes, and that accordingly you do not now propose to announce such a relaxation at this stage. I understand that instead you will say that you are waiting for further information from the football authorities, which will be considered; that you will report your conclusions to the House while the Public Order Bill is before Parliament; and that the Prime Minister, Kenneth Baker and Kenneth Clarke are all content with this approach. You may therefore take it you have H Committee agreement to proceed as proposed.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the members of H Committee, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of the Environment (Richard Tracey) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

John Major
John Major

